

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

To briefly summarize, the present invention is directed to a light source, such as an incandescent lamp, which comprises a bulb 1, and a filament arranged in the bulb, with the filament being heated electrically so that it emits both visible light and heat radiation. To provide improved operating efficiency, a dielectric multilayer coating 7 is applied to the inner surface of the bulb, with the coating being designed to be spectrally selective so as to substantially reflect the heat radiation while being substantially transparent to the visible light. Further, to permit better absorption of the reflected heat radiation, the filament is configured to be in the form of a flat section, which is defined in the specification to include a broad surface which may be either planar or curved.

Claims 29-34, 39, and 44-45 were rejected as being anticipated by Noll (DE 19843852). The cited German patent is believed to correspond to recently issued U.S. patent No. 6,555,948, which is listed in the concurrently filed IDS.

The cited patent to Noll discloses an incandescent lamp composed of a lamp vessel 12 which encloses a filament 14, and in the embodiment of Figs. 1 and 2, the outer surface of the vessel includes a filter coating 35 which is said to reflect infrared radiation while being transparent to light in the visible range. The fact that the coating 35 is on the outer surface of the vessel is apparent from the disclosure at column 6, lines 19-23 of the '948 patent.

The Noll patent also discloses an embodiment wherein the filter coating comprises a layer 35a on the inside of the vessel and a layer 35b on the outside of the vessel, note the paragraph beginning at column 6, line 58 of the '948 patent. Thus neither embodiment of Noll teaches the presently claimed feature of providing a multilayer coating on the inner surface of the bulb. This is an important distinction, since by placing the coating on the inner surface of the bulb, damage to the coating from contact with external objects can be avoided.

Dependent Claim 30 and new Claim 48 are directed to the further feature that the filament comprises a sintered metal powder. This construction provides the important advantages of increased electrical resistance and increased mechanical strength to the filament, as noted in the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 17 of the specification of the application. Such a construction is not taught or suggested by Noll.

Dependent Claim 34 and new Claim 49 add that the filament is coated with a coating material which has a higher melt temperature than the filament. This permits the filament to achieve a higher surface temperature as noted on page 9, lines 9-17 of the specification of the present application. Noll has no comparable teaching.

Claim 35 was rejected upon a proposed combination of Noll and Singh et al., and Claims 36-38, 40-43, and 46-47 were rejected upon a proposed combination of Noll and Pirani. The secondary references to Singh et al. and Pirani were cited with regard to the specific features of these claims, but they do not supply the deficiencies of Noll as set forth above. Further, it should be noted that Singh et al. relates to the production of continuous reinforcing fibers in the formation of composites used in aircraft construction (column 1, lines

41-45). As such, the patent is non-analogous to the subject matter of the present invention.

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are in condition for immediate allowance, and such action is solicited.

Request for Acknowledgement Of Previously Submitted
Information Disclosure Statement

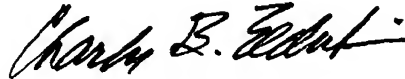
It is noted that an initialed copy of the PTO Form 1449 that was submitted with Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently with the application was not returned with the Office Action. Accordingly, it is requested that an initialed copy of the Form 1449 be forwarded to the undersigned with the next communication from the PTO.

Request for Acknowledgement Of Previously Submitted
Preliminary Amendment and New Drawings

It is noted that the Preliminary Amendment and Request for Approval of Drawing Addition, both filed April 17, 2002, were not acknowledged in the Official Action. A suitable acknowledgement is requested in the next communication from the Examiner.

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Respectfully submitted,

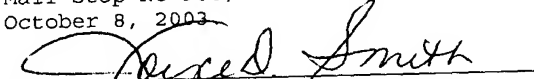


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Joyce D. Smith

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